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Letter dated 23 September 1994 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit the statement of 23 September 1994 by the Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia concerning the anti-Yugoslav campaign of the Republic of Albania.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under agenda item 70 and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Dragomir DJOKIĆ
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

ANNEX

Statement of 23 September 1994 by the Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia

It is with concern that the Federal Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia wishes to draw the attention of the world public to the danger of Albania's protracted hostile campaign against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. This was reflected also in the letter of the President of the Republic of Albania, Sali Berisha, addressed to the heads of State or Government of the permanent Members of the United Nations Security Council and the European Union in connection with the deterioration of the Greek-Albanian relations. In his speech at Gjirokastra on 18 September 1994, the Albanian President reiterated unfounded and fabricated accusations against Serbia and the Serbian people, that is, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. In this way, President Berisha joined, in person, the campaign of the members of his Government who have been fabricating accusations on the alleged coordinated strategy of Greece and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to increase tensions in, and destabilize the southern Balkans.

In his obvious effort to conceal and diminish Albania's responsibility for depriving its national minorities of their human rights and their violation in Albania, President Berisha tends to accuse the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia of the bilateral conflict between Albania and Greece, thus diverting attention from the real causes of the problems. With its fabricated and uncorroborated accusations, Albania wishes to discredit the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia at the moment when the international community has been increasingly appreciative of Yugoslavia's constructive efforts and contribution towards reaching a peaceful solution to the crisis in the territory of the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and particularly the civil war in the former Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Albania's discriminatory attitude towards national minorities is part of its larger-scale undemocratic practice of violation of fundamental human and civil rights. This is evinced by the recent trial of the members of the Greek national minority, attempts to forcibly displace dozens of Serbian and Montenegrin families in the vicinity of Vraka and rigged court trials of political opponents. With its policy of interference in the internal affairs of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and confrontation with almost all its neighbours, Albania has been increasing tensions in the region and threatening peace and stability in the Balkans.

Albania has been continuously inciting secessionism of ethnic Albanians in Kosovo and Metohija in order to have it secede from the Republic of Serbia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. This can be illustrated also by its official and open support to the non-existent "republic of Kosovo", its self-styled representatives, opening of a permanent representative office of its separatist leadership in Tirana and the causing of border incidents. The strategy of Great-Albanian nationalism and instigation of separatism in Kosmet, which were particularly pronounced in President Berisha's speech at Gjirokastra, are in direct contravention of the principles of the Charter of the United

Nations and the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) and thus constitutes a grave threat to peace and security in the Balkans.

On several occasions, the Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia launched initiatives for cooperation with Albania on the basis of non-interference, respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, considering it to be in the interest of the peoples of the two countries and the Balkans. Although the Albanian Government has not yet replied tc these initiatives, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia will continue to contribute, through a direct dialogue, to overcoming the present situation in their mutual relations. In this, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia will continue to resolutely protect its sovereignty and territorial integrity, resisting any attempt at interfering in its internal affairs.

The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia is vitally interested in peace in the Balkans, good-neighbourly relations, multilateral Balkan cooperation and strengthening of confidence among Balkan countries. This should be the genuine orientation of all Balkan countries, including Albania. The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia considers these as the prerequisites also for integration of the Balkans in European democratic processes and cooperation.